SUMPTER Country Fest 2018

MAY 25-28, 2018

COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

SUMPTER TWP. Parks & Recreation

HOME OF THE ANNUAL SUMPTER COUNTRY FEST

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A township tradition

Annual Country Festival marks 33rd year in Sumpter

The Sumpter Township Annual Celebration was instituted in 1975 by the late Adonna Demski and was called Sumpter Days. It was a one-day event staged at Graham Park on Wear Road. Approximately 10 volunteers arranged all the festivities, which included fireworks, crafts, a parade, honored citizens, a carnival and a queen contest. That first year, only about 100 people attended the event.

In 1976, our national Bicentennial was celebrated and the festival parade consisted of several floats. The attendance that year at Sumpter Days was approximately 2,000. Subsequent Sumpter Days took place at Graham Park with similar activities and in 1984 and 1985 the festival became a four-day event.

> *Attendance figures have grown to approximately 20,000 plus.*

A year of change was marked in 1986 when the theme of the festival became "country" and evolved into Sumpter Country Fest. The festival was moved from the Graham Park location to the Sumpter Township Fair Grounds. In 1987, a championship Rodeo and Demolition Derby were added and the festival continues to expand every year.

The Sumpter Country Fest has continued to improve and add entertainment that will bring enjoyment to the community and visitors from the surrounding areas. Attendance figures have grown to approximately 20,000

See **Tradition,** page 2

Welcome to Sumpter Township & the Sumpter Country Fest

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission and the many volunteers for organizing the 2018 Annual Sumpter Country Fest. This event has become a mainstay and an important source of entertainment and fun for not only Sumpter Township but for the entire area. For the last weekend in May, Memorial Weekend, this township board, Supervisor John W. Morgan; Clerk Esther Hurst; Treasurer Peggy Morgan; and Trustees Sheena Barnes, Don LaPorte, Matt Oddy and Don Swinson join hands with the Parks and Recreation Commission and our entire community in making Sumpter Township the entertainment capital of the world

Parade begins festival

Drusilla Allen is lining up a big event to start the Sumpter Country Fest again this year.

Allen, along with the members of the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, has organized the annual Country Fest Parade with that will begin at noon May 26 at the corner of Judd and Sumpter roads.

Allen, who is the parade chairman, said that the parade will travel south down Sumpter Road from the corner of Judd to Dunn Road and end at the festival grounds.

The theme of the parade this year is Country Living At Its Best, and in addition to first and second place trophies, there will be a trophy for the Best in Theme and Best in Show among the parade entries.

Allen said that the award presentations will take place right after the parade, at about 1 p.m. at the pavilion.

"We hope everyone will join us," Allen who is also a member of the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission said.

"A special thanks to parade sponsors Joe Nassar, Little Town Liquor and Deli and Sumpter Pharmacy," she added.

Tradition from page 1

plus.

The Country Fest is run exclusively by volunteer members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the community. It is also a registered non-profit 501.3 © organization.

The Sumpter Parks and Recreation Commission and the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees wish to welcome you to our 2017 Sumpter Country Fest and hope that you have an enjoyable time. Thank you for being here and celebrating our sense of community with us.

Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission
23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 461-6201

Coming soon:
Sumpter Satellite Media Center!

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Sumpter supervisor extends welcome

On behalf of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees and all of its employees, volunteers and certainly all of its citizens, we welcome you to the annual Sumpter Country Fest. This year the festivities begin Friday, May 25 and continue through Monday, May 28. Please join us as friends and neighbors gather for fun and entertainment as we celebrate the greatest place on Earth to live, Sumpter Township.

John W. Morgan
Sumpter Township Supervisor

Citizen(s) of the Year

Couple is honored for history of community involvement

The Citizen of the Year honor in Sumpter Township this year appropriately went to a couple who have been volunteering in the community for nearly a half a century.

Don and Val Swinson, who were honored with the award this year, have been married 57 years and have lived at their Harris Road residence for 49 years.

Swinson, graduated in 1959 from Farwell Area High School in Farwell and shortly thereafter, moved to Ypsilanti after landing a job at the Willow Run General Motors plant. His wife also graduated from Farwell Area High School as valedictorian in 1960.

They married on Aug. 20, 1960 and moved to their current Sumpter Township home nine years later where they raised their five children. They now have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren with another expected soon..

Swinson worked for General Motors for 33 years starting out on the assembly line and working up to a skilled trades

See **Citizens,** page 4

Don and Val Swinson

ST. ANTHONY CHURCH 41ST ANNUAL
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
JUNE 15, 16, 17, 2018
In conjunction with the Belleville National Strawberry Festival
3 Day Community Event
West Columbia, Belleville, MI 48111
734-697-1211 (Rectory)
Chairpersons: Richard & Sharon Pokerwinski
Co-Chair: Martin Church

Belleville National Strawberry Festival
In June on
Father's Day Weekend
Friday • Saturday • Sunday
Executive Director: Joan Bodnar
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STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
June 15, 16, 17, 2018
Downtown

FARMERS MARKET
June - September
Mondays 4-7:30p.m.

TASTE OF BELLEVILLE
August 16, 2018
Horizon Park

HARVEST FEST
October 13, 2018

BOOVILLE
October, 2018

HALLOWEEN
October 31, 2018

PHOTOS WITH SANTA
December 8 and
December 15, 2018
Belleville Area Museum

PHOTOS WITH FLOP-E-BUNNY
April 20, 2018
Victory Park

Citizens from page 4

position. He also served as a Boy Scout leader for 10 years.

He retired from General Motors at the age of 53 but continued to work full-time for Spring Arbor Distributors and later on at Ace Hardware. In April 1995, he established Papa's Fix-It serving the Sumpter community as the "go to guy" for small engine repair.

Val Swinson maintained the household while raising the couple's children. She played an active role volunteering at St. Anthony's School and church for more than 20 years. She was always the mom seen on lunch duty, organized funeral luncheons, ran the kitchen on bingo nights, taught Sunday School, helped with countless events at the Strawberry Festival, and served as a Eucharist Minister for a number of years.

Together, the couple traveled to Honduras as missionaries in 2004 and, most recently, to Israel in October 2017 where they visited many historical sites including the Holy Land.

They continue to be very active with the church at River of Life in Belleville where Don Swinson serves as Head Usher. In their spare time, they enjoy growing a garden, canning, and making honey.

They will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary this year.

24th ANNUAL DON ROCHON MEMORIAL CAR SHOW & SWAP MEET
SUNDAY SEPT. 16, 2018
9 A.M. 3 P.M.
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP FAIR GROUNDS
23501 SUMPTER ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
(Located behind the Sumpter Township Community Center)

Car Show Entry $15 Entries close at 12:30 p.m.
Awards presented at 2:30 p.m.
Swap Meet Exhibitor Fee $20 per 10x10 space

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Pedal Pullers

New attraction offered for children

One of the most popular events at the Sumpter Country Fest this year will undoubtedly be the Pedal Pull for children.

Michigan Pedal Pullers, owned by Ben and Melissa Noll, will offer pedal tractor pulls for children ages 3-10 beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 during the weekend event. The pulls are divided into age categories; 3 and 4-year-olds; 5 and 6-year-olds; 7 and 8-year-olds and 9 and 10-year-olds and by gender, with girls competing against girls and boys against boys during the contests. The children's miniature tractors, operated by manual pushing of the pedals, will face off with the same rules as the adult tractor pulls which use motor power. The children sit on the pedal tractors with a weight transfer sled in tow behind them and attempt to pull the sled down the track moving the weight sled as they travel. Whichever youngster pulls the most weight the farthest down the track in their age category takes first place.

The Pedal Pulls have gained in popularity and the Nolls, who have owned the business for 18 years, have seen an increase from about 18 pedal pulls at year to having 45 events scheduled during the 2018 season. Michigan Pedal Puller also offers teen and adult pulls at some fairs and festivals.

Every child will receive a participation ribbon and placement ribbons are awarded to the top four places in each pull.

More information about Michigan Pedal Pull is available at (517) 392-8701, or by email at michiganpedalpullers@gmail.com. The business can also be found on Facebook with a list of events this year.

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Helping hands

The Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission consists of a 21 member volunteer group that is sponsored by the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees. They volunteer their time to provide wholesome activities for the families within the township. Members of the commission include, left to right, front row, Don Swinson (Board of Trustees Liaison), Holly Swinson (Co-Chair), Dru Allen (Treasurer), Selena Swinson and Kim Toms (Chairperson). In the second row are Margaret Rochon, Jennifer Price (Secretary), Virginia Belinski, Joanne Posegay, Jim Posegay and Sharon Pokerwinski. In the back row are Jim Chudzinski, Jay Bardell, Karithea Murry Hannible, Cheryl Toms and Richard Pokerwinski. Not pictured are members Kevin Rochon, Becky LaPalme, Danny Jones, Mary Carter, Esther Hurst and Anna Bellamy. Events organized by the Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission include:Children's Easter Egg Hunt; Sumpter Country Fest (Memorial Weekend - Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday); Family Fun Day (July); Car Show (September); Turkey Shoot (Sundays in October); Children's Christmas Party (Handle kitchen for refreshments, hot dogs, chips). For information, contact Sumpter Township Hall, (734) 461-6201 or Chairperson Kim Toms, (734) 697-3963.

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2018 SUMPTER COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Township Festival Grounds
23501 Sumpter Road. Belleville MI 48111 (734-461-6201)

IMPERSONATORS / TRIBUTE ARTISTS SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY MAY 26

Program emceed by: JIMMIE JAMES
Station WPON/WCXI 1160 AM
CD Sound System coordinated by: RYAN CLUKEY

2 - 2:45 p.m.	WANDA SUDDUTH – DONNA SUMMERS
3 - 3:45 p.m.	TYRONE HAMILTON – RAY CHARLES
4 - 4:45 p.m.	KATHY BRESSLER – PATSY CLINE
5 - 5:45 p.m.	DAN SPENCER – TOBY KEITH
6 - 6:45 p.m.	JEFF CARR – WILLIE NELSON
7 - 7:45 p.m.	DAWN MARIE – TRISHA YEARWOOD
8 - 8:45 p.m.	SHERMAN ARNOLD – ELVIS
9 - 9:45 p.m.	DON GRANT – JERRY LEE LEWIS
10 - 10:45 p.m.	RUSS & BRIAN – THE BLUES BROTHERS

SUMPTER Country Fest

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY 25-28, 2018

COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST

Friday, May 25

Festival Opens at 5 p.m. - Closes at Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent	5 p.m. - Close
Live Music - 18 Strings Band MI	4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Baby Contest	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Baskets and Quilt Auction	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Silent Auction	5 p.m. - Close
Royalty Pageant	7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Live Music - The Vendetta Ride Band	8 p.m. - Close

Saturday, May 26

Festival Opens Noon - Closes at Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent	Noon - Close
Parade *(From Sumpter Road & Judd Road to Dunn Road)* ***To be announced by Randy Brown/Steve Jones***	Noon
Parade presentations immediately following parade	1:30 p.m.
Baby Contest	Noon - 9 p.m.
Baskets and Quilt Auction	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Michigan Pedal Pullers (Arena, Children 3 - 10)	2 p.m.
Silent Auction	2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Tribute To The Legends (Impersonators)	2 p.m. - Close
Michigan Mini Horse Pulling (Arena)	7 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUMPTER Country Fest

MAY 25–28, 2018

COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST

Sunday, May 27

Festival Opens at Noon. - Closes at Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent	Noon - Close
Car Show (10 a.m. Registration) Located at Sumpter Township Hall	Noon - 4 p.m.
Live Music - The Southern Heat Band	Noon - 3 p.m.
Baby Contest	Noon - 9 p.m.
Baskets and Quilt Raffle	Noon - 10 p.m.
Silent Auction	Noon - 10 p.m.
Live Music - Lock-N-Load Band	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Truck Demolition Derby (Arena)	5:30 p.m.
Live Music -TJ Thomas and the Kentucky Strait Band	8 p.m. - Close
Fireworks - Music provided by Steve Jones	Dusk

Monday, May 28

Festival Opens at Noon - Closes at 10 p.m.

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent	Noon - Close
Live Music - The Bill Strickler Band	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Baby Contest	Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Baskets and Quilt Raffle	Noon - 4:30 p.m.
Baby Contest Awards & Raffle Winners Announced	4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Silent Auction Final Bid	5 p.m.
Silent Auction Items Picked Up	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Auto-Cross/Demolition Derby (Arena)	6 p.m.
Adults $12/Children 12 and under $4	
Live Music - Metro Soul Band	6 p.m. - Close

Baby Contest - Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28

(Ends at 1:30 p.m. Winners Announced 4:30 p.m.)

Silent Auction - Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28

(Last bid 5 p.m., pick-up items 6-8 p.m.)

Crafters and Vendors - All day Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28

FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT/BABY CONTEST/PONY RIDES/MICHIGAN PEDAL PULLERS/ INFLATABLES/SILENT AUCTION/ CRAFTS/VENDORS/CAR SHOW/BEER TENT WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP (734) 461-6201
OR VISIT WWW.SUMPTERTWP.COM

SUMPTER COUNTRY FEST IS SPONSORED BY
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Warm wishes

Two handmade quilts will again be raffled off during the Sumpter Country Festival. One of the quilts, queen-size with a colorful lighthouse design, was handmade by an anonymous donor. The other, a quilted throw, was donated by Sumpter Township resident Ernie Butzin, at right, and is an intricate pattern of blue and yellow. The handmade quilts represent many hours of painstaking work piecing together the fabric panels to complete the final patterns. Tickets for the quilt raffle will be on sale all weekend and the winner will be announced on Monday, May 28.

FESTIVAL GROUNDS MAP

LEGEND

1. Restrooms
2. Arena
3. Pavilion – Beer Sales
4. Handicap Parking/Wheelchair
5. Post Office
6. Info Booth
7. T-Shirt Sales
8. Handicap Parking/Wheelchair
9. Township Vehicle Parking
10. Police Department
11. Playground
12. Fairgrounds
13. Parking Entrance
14. Pit & Carnival Employee Entrance
15. Silent Auction
16. Community Center
17. Craft Vendors
18. Walkers Entrance
19. Water Dept.
20. DPW
21. VIP Parking
22. Inflatables
23. Ponies
24. Fireworks

Local business owner is Grand Marshal

Joe Nasser Grand Marshal of the Sumpter Country Fest this year, has proven the old saying that everything old is new again.

Nasser is the owner of the Sumpter Market at the corner of Sumpter and Willis roads, a corner that was the hub of township activity many years ago. The corner, at one time, was the site of Welt's Grocery and Gas, Joe Sietz' General Store & Gas, Henry Sietz' Hardware Store, Sobecki's Willis Bar, Bowling Alley and Gas Station, Januszyk's Roller Rink, Caesar's Restaurant and a shoe store among the other merchants. All those establishments are now a part of the history of the township and the corner was abandoned for many years.

In 2011, Nasser purchased the property where the bowling alley and gas station formerly stood and built the Sumpter Market which features a delicatessen, pharmacy and gas station, a much-needed addition to the community, residents agreed. A corner of the township that was vacant for decades is now an attractive business providing for the needs of the community.

'Joe and Fay Nasser and their family business is a welcome addition to the community that has "certainly added to our 2018 theme, 'Country Living at its Best,"' committee members said.

Grand Marshal 2018 Joe Nasser

"We are honoring, the Joe and Fay Nasser family as Grand Marshal in our 2018 Sumpter Country Fest," committee members said. "We thank them for their support of our community events."

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Nobody said it would be easy

New parks administrator reports on progress in township

Since being appointed as the Sumpter Township Parks Administrator, I have enjoyed the progress and work that is happening in our parks.

I hesitated to accept the position created with the loss of Alan Bates, our former administrator, knowing that his death left enormous shoes to fill in our township. I decided to take on the responsibility and pledged to do my very best to carry on Alan's legacy of success.

When I looked through the material that Alan had accumulated, it was very clear that he intended to make Banotai Park and Graham Park the best parks around for children and families in our community. He was also working on improving the Sumpter Township Fairgrounds and had received a grant to fund the much-needed updates. Alan also had plans to replace the bleachers there.

Holly Swinson and Sharon Pokerwinski

When you visit the Fairgrounds for an event, there is a picture of Alan Bates in the pavilion that he worked so diligently to improve.

He prompted my determination to continue his improvements and I began to contact various organizations like the DNR, Michigan Parks & Recreation Association and Wayne County Parks Division. The organizations provided an avalanche of information and material and to my surprise, we received a letter from the office of Al Haidous, Wayne County Commissioner of the 13th District.

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The letter suggested we apply for a grant through the Parks Millage Allocation.

With help from other Parks & Recreation Commission members, especially Holly Swinson, who keeps our building neatly organized and clean, along with township officials and staff from the township department of public works, I applied for a grant to fund a makeover of our parks and recreation building.

We were hoping to have new vinyl siding with white trim, soffit, new windows and trim, and gutters paid for with grant funds. I gathered all the necessary paperwork, documents, and resolutions that were needed.

In response, we received a letter that a portion of "Millage Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was earmarked for Sumpter Township to beautify our parks and recreation building. The work has already been completed and refreshes the look of Graham Park.

Renovated Sumpter Parks and Recreation building

We are now in the process of applying for "Millage Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2017-2018" to fund an addition to the north end of the building for much needed storage space.

We want to thank Commissioner Haidous and the Wayne County Parks Division for helping us beautify our parks.

Sharon Pokerwinski
Parks Administrator
Member of Sumpter Township
Parks and Recreation Commission

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A tribute to Sumpter Township Police Department

Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission members want to recognize and commend our loyal police officers. When you see one of them, acknowledge them and thank them for their service to our township. You never know when you might need their help and we are so thankful that they are here for us.

Chief Eric Luke

Lt. Patrick Gannon

Sgt. Chris McGlynn

Sgt. James Cayce

Det./Sgt. John Toth

Sgt. Beth Egerer

Sgt. Brian Steffani

Det./Cpl. John Ashby

Jerry Cox, Jr.

Colleen Carefelle

Joseph Balowski

George Salajan, III

Malissa Paquette

Sue Dufresne

The Sumpter Township Police Department was founded in 1954 to provide law enforcement services to the citizens of Sumpter Township. Prior to that time responsibility was with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police. The department's first Chief of Police was Terry Williams, Jr.

Sumpter Township is a rural community of 9,549 residents in the southwest corner of Wayne County, midway between the urban areas of Ann Arbor and Detroit. It encompasses an area of approximately 37.5 square miles.

Sumpter Township was designated township 4 S in range 8 E of Wayne County. The original survey was approved on Nov. 5, 1819. Federal land in Sumpter Township began to be sold to individuals by the 1830s, with one land patent to Arthur Fuller on April 4, 1833.

Sumpter Township was officially organized on April 6, 1840.

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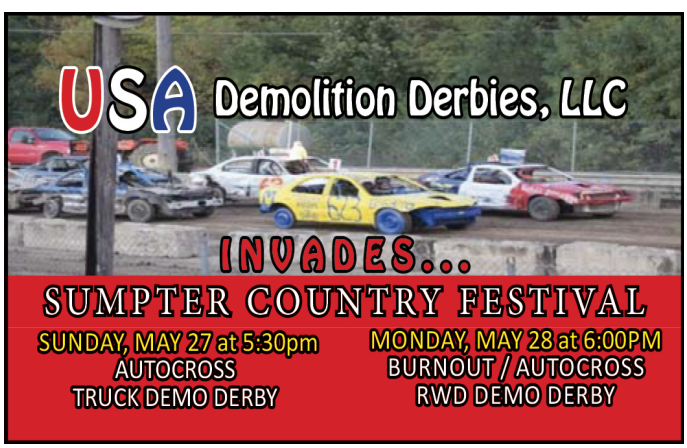


A special thank you to our firefighters

Members of the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission want to recognize and commend our loyal fire fighters. When you see one of them acknowledge them and thank them for their service to our township. You never know when you might need their help and we are so thankful that they are here for us.

Joseph Januszyk

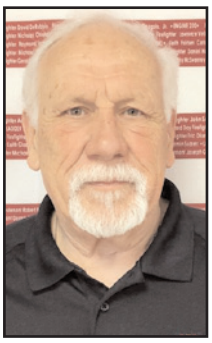
Tim Armstrong

John Krushlin

Rick Brown

Mike McHenry

James Stumpf


Richard Sliwa

Walter Thompson

Coleen Armatis

David Behrendt

Brian Blackburn

Elizabeth Blackburn

Laura Bratby

Daniel Frost

Jamie Goode

Sonya Ingle

Jamie Krushlin

Don LaPorte

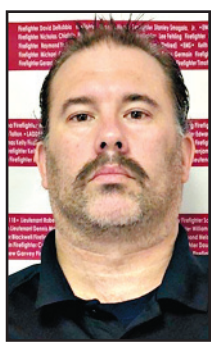
Eric Long

Colin Lynch

Rhonda Overman

Derek Smith

Tony Spitznagel


Mike Wisniewski

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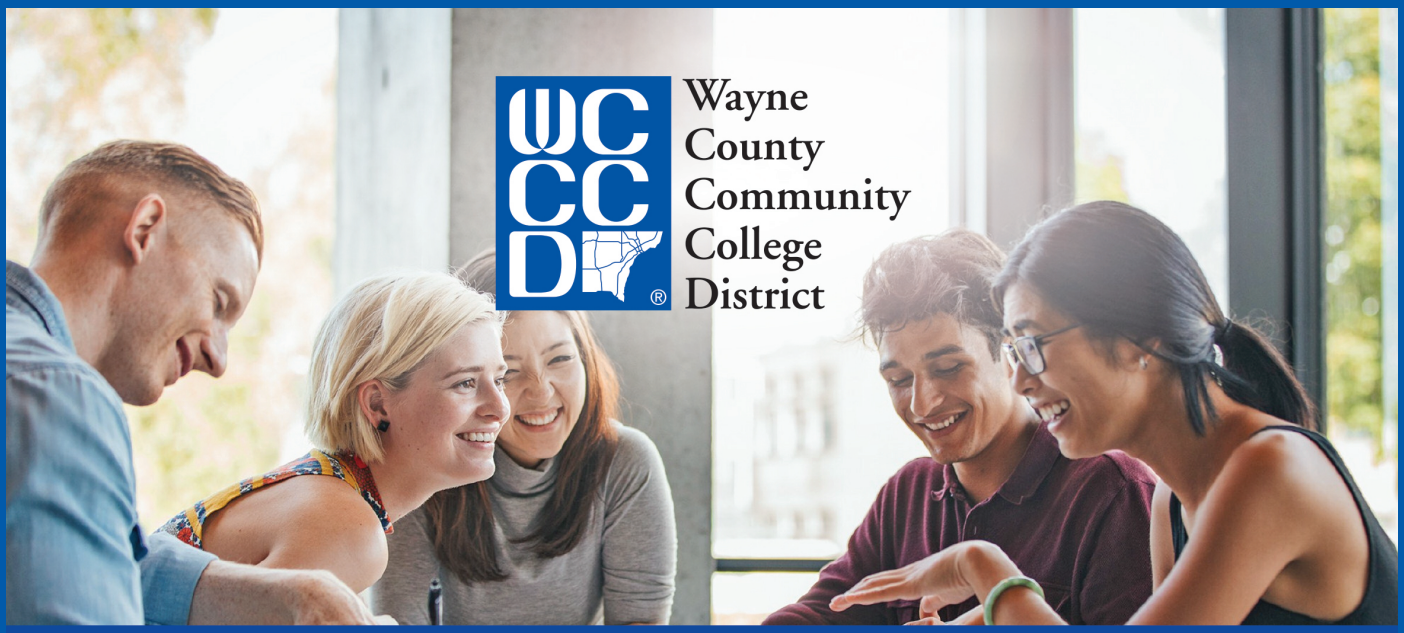

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  - *Computer Support Specialist*
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    - *Certified Ethical Hacker*
    - *Network+*
    - *Security+*
  - *Database Administrator*
  - *Network Administrator*
  - *Video Game Design*
  - *Website Developer*
- *Craft Brewing*
- *Criminal Justice*
  - *Corrections*
  - *Law Enforcement Administration*
  - *Public/Private Security*
- *Dental Assisting*
- *Digital Media Production*
- *Early Childhood Education*
- *Electrical Electronics Engineering*
  - *Computer Technology*
  - *Programmable Logic Controllers*
- *Emergency Medical Technology*
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- *Fashion Design*
- *Global Supply Chain Management*
- *Light Rail Technology*
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